All aboard for WWII-inspired production 'All Hands on Deck'

CHOICES, 3B

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

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Gun used in shooting bought legally

Suspect in Fla. attack that killed 17 people had no criminal record, passed instant background check

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

The suspect in a Florida school shooting bought the AR-15-style rifle used in the attack legally a year ago, authorities said Thursday.

Nikolas Cruz, 19, is charged with murdering 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, where he had been expelled for fighting, according to authorities.

Cruz legally bought the semiautomatic rifle at a Broward County gun shop last February, law enforcement officials who weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly told the Associated Press. The gun, a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 .223, was purchased at Sunrise Tactical Gear, according to AP.

Federal law allows people 18 and older to purchase long guns, including this kind of assault weapon. With no criminal record, Cruz cleared an instant background check via the FBI criminal database.

If somebody is adjudicated mentally defective or has been committed to a mental institution, he is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law.

See SHOOTING, Page 8A

USA TODAY

Nikolas Cruz, accused of killing 17 in Wednesday's massacre, described as a 'broken child.' **6A**

Mooney Grove Park reels in families with plenty of trout

FISHING EXPEDITION

Sheyanne N Romero
Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

With fishing poles in hand, families cast their line into Mooney Grove Park's pond on Sunday in hopes of reeling in a big one.

One girl was lucky enough to bring one home.

Janyssa Uriate, 8, proudly displayed the trout she caught while fishing at the park. Although the Tulare girl doesn't like to eat fish, she said she knows it's "good for your brain."

"We've come out here before," said Janyssa's mother, Savanah Uriate. "The kids really like it."

The Tulare family was one of dozens of families that have come flooding into the park over the last two months.

See FISHING, Page 2A

Above: Adrian Espinoza and his family went fishing at Mooney Grove Park on Sunday. In December, the park was stocked with rainbow trout. Top: Oscar Espinoza was determined to reel one in while fishing at Mooney Grove Park. PHOTOS BY SHEYANNE ROMERO

Tulare credit union robbed

Police scouring the city for clues on suspect

Sheyanne N Romero and Eric Woomer
Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

A suspected robber is on the loose and Tulare police are scouring the city for clues to put the thief behind bars.

Police were called just after 2:30 p.m. by employees at Tucoemas Federal Credit Union located at 1233 E. Prosperity Ave. Employees told police they had been robbed.

Officers arrived and began questioning witnesses, which weren't allowed to leave the business until the scene was cleared. Officers also searched the area for the suspect but came up empty.

After leaving the credit union with an undisclosed amount of money, the man escaped on a bicycle, Tulare Sgt. Jon Hamlin said.

The teller told police a man wearing a beanie and prescription glasses walked into the credit union and went to one of the tellers. He then pulled out a gun and demanded the teller hand over money.

See ROBBERY, Page 4A

Police are searching for a man suspected of robbing a Tulare credit union. TULARE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Panel eyes public right to know misconduct

Kathleen Ronayne
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The public's right to know if their lawmakers have engaged in sexual misconduct was the chief topic of discussion Thursday among a panel tasked with revamping the California Legislature's harassment policies.

"The public pays our salary, the public pays the settlements, the public has the absolute right to know what it is we're doing," said Democratic Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes of Grand Terrace.

The nine-member, bipartisan panel of legislators met a day after allegations of misconduct escalated against Democratic Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia of Bell Gardens, an outspoken voice in the #MeToo movement.

The panel made no mention of her case, instead focusing on the broader topic of how to fix a system for reporting and addressing harassment that Capitol employees say is broken.

Employment attorneys called in to speak said transparency should be a priority for the Legislature when it comes to publicizing founded complaints, although one panelist said the Legislature should think carefully before publicizing claims that haven't been substantiated.

See MISCONDUCT, Page 4A

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USA TODAY

Flu vaccines just 25% effective this year. **6A**

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Sunny. Forecast, **2A**

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